

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

01ST to 11TH Feb 2023

DESCRIPTIVE

❖ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day

- Every year, India celebrates the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Day on 1 February.
- The ICG Day is observed to honor and pay tribute to the Indian Coast Guard Force who play a critical role in protecting the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations in the maritime zones of India.
- This year, India is celebrating its 47th Foundation Day on 1st February 2023.
- Indian Coast Guard is the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world with approximately 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.
- The Indian Coast Guard was enacted first time by the Indian Parliament on 18 August 1978. The first Coast Guard was officially launched by Prime Minister Morarji Desai on 19 August 19 1978.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania. It is founded on 1 February 1977. Its Headquarters is in New Delhi.

❖ World Wetland Day

- World Wetland Day is celebrated annually on February 2 with the aim to create awareness of the vital role wetlands play for people and the planet.
- The proposal for the convention on wetlands was first made on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.
- Wetlands are the parts of the earth where the soil is covered with water. They support both terrestrial and aquatic species.

➤ There are five major types of wetlands. They are marine, estuarine, lacustrine, riverine, and palustrine.

➤ The awareness of World Wetland Day started off in 1997. However, it was on August 30, 2021, that the United Nations General Assembly approved resolution 75/317 for World Wetlands Day to be celebrated on February 2.

➤ The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is 'It's Time for Wetlands Restoration,' which focuses on the urgent need to prioritize wetland restoration.

❖ **World Cancer Day**

➤ World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 every year around the globe and on the special day, experts aim at spreading awareness about the disease, its causes, symptoms, preventive measures and treatment methods.

➤ The initiative of World Cancer Day 2023 first goes back to the promotion and support of the World Cancer Declaration in the year 2008 by the Union for International Cancer Control.

➤ World Cancer Day was first made official in the year 2000 under the World Summit in Paris by signing a document called the Charter of Paris Against Cancer consisting of 10 articles.

➤ The Theme of this year is “Close the Care Gap”.

❖ **Supreme Court celebrated its foundation day for the first time**

➤ The Supreme Court of India celebrated its foundation day for the first time on February 4, 2023.

➤ Chief Justice of Singapore, Justice Sundaresh Menon has been invited as the chief guest for the event and delivered a lecture on 'Role of Judiciary in a Changing World'.

➤ The programme, which is to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court of India, will feature a welcome address by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and an address by CJI DY Chandrachud as well.

➤ Justice Sundaresh Menon SC is a Singaporean judge who has been serving as the fourth Chief Justice of Singapore since 2012. Justice Menon is the first Singapore-born Chief Justice of Singapore.

➤ The Supreme Court came into existence on 28th January 1950, two days after India became a republic on 26th January.

❖ **International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**

➤ The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed each year on February 6.

➤ It is an international awareness day organised by the United Nations in order to combat the horrific practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).

➤ FGM, also known as female genital cutting, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and female circumcision, is a practice where the external genitalia of females is cut or removed.

➤ The practice is most common in around 30 African nations along with countries like Indonesia, Iraq, and Yemen.

➤ In Somalia, 98 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone some form of FGM. In Guinea, the number stands at 97 percent.

➤ The theme for International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2023 is “Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM”.

➤ The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was established in 2003 after the Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation made the official declaration on "Zero Tolerance to FGM" in Africa on February 6.

❖ **International Day of Human Fraternity**

➤ The International Day of Human Fraternity has been observed every year on February 4.

➤ The International Day of Human Fraternity was established by the United Nations General Assembly on December 21, 2020.

- This day, which falls in the middle of the International Interfaith Harmony Week is recognised by one of the world’s leading transnational organisations– the United Nations.
- The motto of International Day of Human Fraternity is “harmony in difference.”
- On December 21, 2020, the United Nations General Assembly, through a resolution co-sponsored by the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, declared February 4 as the day.
- The first program was organized on February 4, 2021.
- ❖ **“The Poverty Of Political Economy: How Economics Abandoned the Poor”**
- Author: Meghnad Desai.
- ❖ **Salman Rushdie new novel ‘Victory City’**
- Salman Rushdie published his new novel “Victory City”, an “epic tale” of a 14th-century woman who defies a patriarchal world to rule a city.
- The book is about the Vijayanagara Empire, which dominated the southern tip of the Indian subcontinent in the 14th century.
- ❖ **Air Marshal AP Singh to Be New Vice Chief Of Indian Air Force**
- Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force.
- He will succeed Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, who will retire from service.
- Air Marshal A P Singh is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command.
- He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984.
- Prior to taking over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command, he was Senior Air Staff Officer at the Eastern Air Command.
- ❖ **Madhvendra Singh appointed first CEO of Gujarat Maritime Cluster**
- Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited has appointed Madhvendra Singh as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster.

- The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards.
- It is the first and only maritime cluster in India at present.
- The Cluster has the unique advantage of leveraging the regulatory flexibility which is afforded by the first International Finance Services Centre (IFSC) in the country.

❖ **Unilever appoints Hein Schumacher as new CEO**

- FMCG giant Unilever has appointed Hein Schumacher as its new CEO to replace Alan Jope who will retire from the company at the end of 2023.
- According to the Unilever website, Schumacher was appointed as a Non-Executive Director of Unilever PLC in June 2022 and his appointment took effect in October 2022.
- He is a member of the Audit Committee.
- Prior to his second stint with the FMCG giant, in 2018, he was the CEO of the Dutch multinational dairy cooperative Koninklijke FrieslandCapina NV.
- He joined the company in 2014 as its Chief Financial Officer.

❖ **Puma India ropes in cricket star Harmanpreet Singh as brand ambassador**

- Sports brand Puma India announced roping in women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador.
- With this, Harmanpreet joins PUMA's roster of brand ambassadors that include Virat Kohli, football stars Neymar Jr and Sunil Chhetri, boxer MC Mary Kom, cricketer Harleen Deol and Para-Shooter Avani Lekhara.

❖ **Prashant Agrawal Appointed as the Next Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic**

- IFS officer Prashant Agarwal has been appointed as India's next ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic.
- He was earlier posted as The High Commissioner of India to Namibia.

➤ IFS officer M Subbarayudu has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Namibia.

❖ **RBI appoints V Ramachandra as member of advisory committee of Srei NBFCs**

➤ Reserve Bank of India has appointed V Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of the two Srei Group companies undergoing insolvency proceedings — Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance.

➤ The RBI created a three-member advisory council to assist the administrator of the two crisis-ridden enterprises after overriding the boards of SIFL and SEFL in October 2021.

➤ Consequent upon the resignation of Shri Farokh N Subedar from the Advisory Committee with effect from January 31, 2023, it has been decided to appoint Shri V Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee with immediate effect.

➤ Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, former deputy managing director of State Bank of India, and T T Srinivasaraghavan, former managing director of Sundaram Finance Limited, are the committee's other two members.

➤ Srei Group owes over Rs 18,000 crore to approximately 15 lenders, including Axis Bank, UCO Bank, and State Bank of India, in addition to nearly Rs 10,000 crore in external commercial borrowings and bonds.

❖ **Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi became the new Drugs Controller General of India**

❖ **Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera appointed to House Intelligence Committee**

➤ Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera has been named to serve on the influential House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the 118th Congress.

➤ The longest-serving Indian-American in Congress, Bera was first elected to Congress in 2012. He represents the sixth Congressional District of California.

➤ US Congressman Ami Bera also serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

➤ During the 117th Congress, he served as Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Non-proliferation, where he spearheaded Congressional efforts to bolster ties with Indo-Pacific allies and partners to advance US economic and security interests.

➤ In the 117th Congress, Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi served in the House Intelligence Committee.

➤ Now he has been made a Ranking Member of the House's China Committee.

➤ The United States House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, also known as the House Intelligence Committee, is a committee of the United States House of Representatives, currently chaired by Mike Turner.

❖ Centre clears appointment of 5 new judges to Supreme Court

➤ The Centre has cleared the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint five new judges to the apex court.

➤ The Collegium system has become a major flashpoint between the Supreme Court and the Centre with the mechanism of judges appointing judges drawing criticism from different quarters.

➤ Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal, Patna High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Karol, Manipur High Court Chief Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, Patna High Court judge Ahsanuddin Amanullah and *Allahabad High Court judge Manoj Misra will now be Supreme Court judges.

➤ The top court, which has a sanctioned strength of 34 judges including the Chief Justice, is functioning with 27 judges presently.

❖ Apsara Iyer becomes first Indian American woman president of Harvard Law Review

➤ Apsara Iyer, an Indian American student at the Harvard Law School has been elected as the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review.

- A second-year student at Harvard Law School, Iyer became the first woman from the community to be elected to the coveted position in the prestigious publication's 136-year history.
- Iyer was elected the 137th president of the Harvard Law Review, which was founded in 1887 and is one of the oldest student-run legal scholarship publications.
- The Law Review, operated under the Harvard Law School, is an organisation that reviews and selects articles published in the legal field.
- Iyer, who has been working in art crime investigation and repatriation since 2018, succeeds Priscila Coronado as the president.
- In 2018, she joined the Manhattan District Attorney's Antiquities Trafficking Unit (ATU).

❖ **Shamika Ravi appointed as member, EAC-PM**

- Economics professor and researcher Shamika Ravi has been appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- Shamika Ravi is currently non-resident senior fellow of the governance studies program at the Brookings Institution Washington D.C.
- EAC-PM, chaired by economist Bibek Debroy, currently has one member and six part-time members.
- Ravi had previously served as member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and publishes extensively in peer-reviewed academic journals.
- The composition of EAC-PM is: Dr Bibek Debroy (Chairman), Sanjeev Sanyal (Member), Rakesh Mohan (Part-Time Member), Dr Sajjid Chinoy (Part-Time Member), Dr Neelkanth Mishra (Part-Time Member), Nilesh Shah (Part-Time Member), Prof T T Ram Mohan (Part-Time Member) and Dr Poonam Gupta (Part-Time Member).

❖ **NTPC bags 'ATD Best Awards 2023'**

- NTPC Limited, the country's largest power generating company has been honoured with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.

- This is the sixth time that NTPC Limited has won this award for demonstrating enterprise success in the field of talent development.
- The ATD Best Awards recognises organisations that demonstrate enterprise through talent development. NTPC has been successful in creating an ecosystem, which empowers employees to enhance their skill sets.
- The award includes small and large private, public, and not-for-profit organizations from across the globe.
- The Association for Talent Development, USA is the world's largest association in the field of talent development and ATD's BEST AWARD is most coveted recognition in Learning and Development.
- NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India.
- It was set up in 1975.
- Its Headquarters is in New Delhi, and its present Chairman and Managing Director is Gurdeep Singh.

❖ **Hon'ble President of India awarded RPF/RPSF personnel with Jeevan Raksha Padak awards**

- President of India has approved 43 names for the Jeevan Raksha Padak Series Award-2022.
- This includes seven Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padaks, eight Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padaks and 28 Jeevan Raksha Padaks.
- Four people have been given this award posthumously.
- President Draupadi Murmu awarded Jeevan Raksha Medals to Railway Police Force (RPF) and Railway Protection Special Force (RPSF) personnel Jaipal Singh, Surendra Kumar and Constable Buddha Saini.
- Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to an individual for a meritorious act in saving the life of a person.

➤ The award is given in three categories namely Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak.

❖ **Former PM Manmohan Singh Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Honour in UK**

➤ Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh was recently conferred a Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life.

➤ The Honour will be handed over to him in New Delhi by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK at a later date

➤ It is given to highlight the achievements of Indian students studying in UK universities.

➤ Dr. Manmohan Singh has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Honors for his academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

➤ British Indian peer Lord Karan Bilimoria received the Living Legend Honour at the awards ceremony on January 25.

❖ **Sitharaman becomes India's 6th FM to present Budget 5 times in a row**

➤ Nirmala Sitharaman has become the sixth Finance Minister in independent India to present the Budget five times in a row.

➤ Others who have presented five consecutive annual financial statements include Arun Jaitley, P Chidambaram, Yashwant Sinha, Manmohan Singh and Morarji Desai.

➤ Sitharaman's budget for the fiscal year starting April 2023 is her fifth straight since 2019.

➤ After taking charge of the Finance Ministry in the Modi Government in 2014, Jaitley presented five budgets in a row from 2014-15 to 2018-19.

➤ It was in 2017, that Jaitley departed from the colonial-era tradition of presenting Budget on the last working day of February to 1st of the month.

➤ In 2019, Sitharaman became the second woman to have presented the budget after Indira Gandhi, who had presented the budget for the financial year 1970-71.

➤ It was under Yashwant Sinha that the time for presentation of the Budget was changed to 11am from 5 pm.

❖ **Maharashtra NCC directorate won the prestigious Prime Minister's banner title**

➤ The Maharashtra contingent of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate has won the prestigious Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2023 event for the second year in a row.

➤ The victorious contingent of NCC Maharashtra Directorate were hosted by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, FOC-in-C Western Naval Command & Mrs Charu Singh, President Navy Wellness and Welfare Association (NWWA) Western Region, at Navy House in Mumbai on 31st Jan 2023.

➤ This is a big achievement as the NCC Maharashtra Directorate has won the RDC banner competition 19 times overall and consecutively for two years now.

➤ Maharashtra's NCC contingent of 111 cadets won the Champions Trophy and the Prime Minister's Banner at the RDC 2023 for standing first in addition to winning a rich haul of trophies and laurels and medals.

➤ Cadet Pujari Shivananda Ashok commanded the RD parade contingent.

➤ The Maharashtra directorate also won awards for best directorate in Air Wing competition and the best squadron in flying.

❖ **Indian music composer Ricky Kej wins third Grammy for 'Divine Tides'**

➤ Music composer Ricky Kej, based out of Bengaluru, has won his third Grammy Award for the album 'Divine Tides'.

➤ At the 65th Annual Grammy Awards, the duo earned the gramophone trophy in the best immersive audio album winner category.

➤ They had won a Grammy in the best new age album category for the same album last year.

➤ The musician also received a prize for his 2015 album, "Winds of Samsara."

➤ 'Divine Tides' is a nine-song album that aims to deliver the message that "each individual life plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance that serves all equally".

➤ Ricky is only the fourth Indian and youngest person from India to have won a Grammy Award.

❖ **Dr. Peggy Mohan bags 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award**

➤ Author Dr Peggy Mohan has bagged the 'Mathrubhumi Book of The Year' award at the fourth edition of Mathrubhumi International Festival of Letters (MBIFL 2023).

➤ Her book 'Wanderers, Kings and Merchants', portraying evolution of language as the outcome of migrations, won the award that carries Rs two lakh as cash prize and a sculpture.

➤ Nobel Laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah presented the award to Mohan at the valedictory ceremony of the four-day MBIFL 2023.

➤ MBIFL 2023, also known as 'Ka' in Malayalam, featured Nobel and Booker Prize winners and Jnanpith awardees and others among over 400 names in creative fields.

❖ **VP Nandakumar, Manappuram Finance gets Hurun India award**

➤ Managing Director & CEO, Manappuram Finance Ltd, VP Nandakumar has bagged the Hurun India's award for his remarkable achievements in the world of business.

➤ He received The Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022 from top Hurun India officials at a function held in Mumbai.

➤ Adi Godrej, chairman, Godrej Group, Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Managing Director, Serum Institute of India Ltd, Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder, Infosys Ltd and Sanjiv Goenka of RPG Group were the earlier recipients of this award.

➤ V.K. Mathews, founder and executive chairman, IBS Software, has been conferred the Hurun Industry Achievement Award 2022.

➤ Mr Mathews was nominated for the award on the basis of the research made by the Hurun global team.

❖ "Golden Book Awards" 2023

- Wings Publication has announced the winners of the Golden Book Award 2023, a highly-acclaimed recognition program honoring exceptional Authors.
- The Jury to awards was Dr Kailash Pinjani (President Indian Authors Association), Dr. Deepak Parbat (Founder of Superfast Author) & Murali Sundaram (Founder of TLC).
- The winners include Ashneer Grover, Jeff Kinney, J.K Rowling, Gaur Gopal Das, Ruskin Bond, Namita Thapar, Kamlesh Patel, Geeta Piramal among others.
- Golden Book Award is prestigious award, created to honor the esteem Books of the year.
- There were more than 75,000 books published in India and nominees include a diverse mix of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and children's books.

❖ Central Bank raises repo rate by 25 bps to 6.5%

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) hiked the repo rate by 25 bps to 6.50 percent.
- The MPC decided by a majority of 4 out of 6 to increase the policy repo rate with immediate effect.
- The central bank had raised the key rate by 35 basis points (bps) in the December policy after delivering three consecutive hikes of 50 bps.
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate was also hiked by 25 bps to 6.75 percent.
- RBI left the CRR untouched. Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) is the deposit that banks are mandated to maintain by the RBI as reserves in the form of liquid cash.

❖ K Satyanarayana Raju appointed as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank

- Central government has announced the appointment of K Satyanarayana Raju as Managing Director and CEO of Canara Bank.
- His appointment is effective from February 7.
- Earlier, Raju served Canara Bank as executive director from March 2021.

- He replaced L V Prabhakar who demitted office on December 31, 2022.
- With more than 33 years of banking experience, Raju started his career with the erstwhile Vijaya Bank in 1988 and has risen to the level of chief general manager in the Bank of Baroda.
- He has experience in heading various branches for 12 years including a specialised corporate banking branch. He was the regional head of Shimoga, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Raju also led the Mumbai zone as the zonal head.

❖ **Assam Cabinet approves floriculture mission**

- The Assam Cabinet has approved a state floriculture mission with an initial investment of Rs 150 crore, covering 20,000 farmers.
- Several other important decisions were taken at the cabinet meeting, including setting up of an additional CM secretariat at Dibrugarh, a new Raj Bhavan at Tezpur and converting employment exchanges into youth welfare offices.
- Briefing reporters after the meeting, the CM said in view of the huge demand for flowers in Assam, which is currently met with supply from Kolkata and even Thailand, a State Floriculture Mission has been approved.
- Under it, the area of flower cultivation will be expanded from 2,200 hectares to 3,288 hectares within three years.

❖ **India's first model G-20 summit inaugurated**

- India's G-20 Sherpa Mr Amitabh Kant inaugurated India's first Model G-20 Summit organised by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership.
- The two-day Model G-20 Summit has been organised at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Uttan campus near Mumbai to celebrate India's presidency and take the idea of G-20 to the youth.
- Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of ICCR and Vice Chairman of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini chaired the inaugural ceremony.

- G20 countries comprise of developed and developing countries that have provided solutions to various global issues.
- A total of 150 youth from across the country will participate in the program and will play the role of delegates representing G-20 countries.
- The best two delegates will be awarded cash prizes of Rs 15,000 and Rs 10,000.

❖ **31st Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women**

- President Draupadi Murmu has addressed the 31st Foundation Day of National Commission for Women (NCW) in New Delhi.
- The theme of the programme is ‘Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat’ aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the stories of women who have excelled and paved their journey to leave a mark.
- The NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- The Commission was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate the redressal, of grievances, and advise the Government on policy matters affecting women.

❖ **PLASTINDIA 2023**

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired the CEO Conclave at PlastIndia 2023 in New Delhi.
- The conference was attended by more than 90 CEOs from the plastics industry both from India and abroad.
- Exhibitors from more than 45 countries of the world as well as more than 2,00,000 trade visitors from around the world participated in it.
- PLASTINDIA 2023 refers to a series of exhibitions under the PlastIndia Foundation, the 11th International Plastics Exhibition and Conclave being organized from February 1 to 5, 2023 at ITPO Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- It will promote India as a global source of processed plastics, raw materials, machinery and products for use in all aspects of human existence.

❖ Asia's first floating festival : Madhya Pradesh

- Usha Thakur, Tourism Minister in the Government of Madhya Pradesh, inaugurated the first edition of the Gandhi Sagar Floating Festival at Mandsaur.
- This floating festival commenced with the performances of the "Indian Ocean rock band" on February 1.
- Visitors can enjoy a floating stage, floating market, boat spa, boat safari, and live music in the festival.
- The floating festival will conclude on February 4 while the tent city for tourists will continue for 3 months.
- The tourist will get a chance to enjoy live music concerts and entertainment on a floating stage.
- Gandhisagar Floating Festival is also great festival for adventurers.

❖ Tableau of Uttarakhand got first prize

- The wildlife and religious theme tableau of Uttarakhand has been awarded the top prize at this year's Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path.
- Meanwhile, the Indian Army's Punjab Regiment has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three services.
- Gujarat's tableau emerged as the numero uno in the popular choice segment.
- The Uttarakhand tableau showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites during the ceremonial parade on January 26.
- The Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF) marching contingent won the top prize among the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.
- Among the ministries and departments, the tableau of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools) won the best prize.

➤ A total of 23 tableaux — 17 from states and union territories and six from various ministries and departments — depicting India's vibrant cultural heritage, economic and social progress took part in the ceremonial parade.

➤ 'Nari Shakti' was predominantly the theme of the celebrations at the Republic Day this year.

➤ Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was the chief guest at the ceremonial event.

❖ **First survey of migrants started in Jharkhand**

➤ The first survey of migrants has been started by the Government of Jharkhand.

➤ This survey will be done in 11 thousand houses in 24 districts of the state.

➤ The objective of the survey is to create a robust database of migrants and migration patterns in the state.

➤ The results of the survey will be used for state level policy making.

➤ The survey will collect information about migrants coming into the state, migrants going out of the state, quality of life of migrants, understanding the mindset of migrants etc.

❖ **Finance Minister announces PM-VIKAS package for artisans and craftspeople**

➤ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a package of assistance for artisans and craftspeople while presenting the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament.

➤ The newly-conceptualised Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Kaushal Samman (PM-VIKAS) scheme will enable the country's artisans to improve the quality, scale, and reach of their products, integrating them with the Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSME) value chain.

➤ Traditional artists in the country will benefit from the scheme.

➤ Traditional artisans and craftspeople who work with their hands and tools have brought fame to India for centuries. They are commonly known as Vishwakarma.

➤ Their art and handicrafts exemplify the true spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. For the first time, a package of assistance has been conceptualised for them.

❖ **Meghalaya to host G20 nations' meet on space**

- Meghalaya Governor BD Mishra said the state will be hosting a meeting of the G20 nations in April to discuss how space partnerships can contribute to the economy of the countries.
- India has decided to host around 200 G20 meetings across the country during its yearlong Presidency of the influential group. India assumed the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022.
- As part of the G20 programme, Shillong will be hosting the Space-20 program on April 17-18.
- The G20 or Group of 20 is an intergovernmental forum of the world's major developed and developing economies.
- Meghalaya state is also known for its unique horticultural products - Lakadong turmeric, the sweet Khasi Mandarin oranges and beautiful Eri silk fabrics known as Ahimsa silk.

❖ **Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' declared as official Maharashtra's state song**

- The Maharashtra government has recognised 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' as the state song.
- The song will be adopted on February 19, the birth anniversary of the founder of the Maratha empire Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The decision was taken by the Maharashtra cabinet, headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.
- One of the iconic songs in Marathi, 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha, Garja Maharashtra Majha', which means 'Glory to Maharashtra', was penned by Raja Badhe and sung by balladeer Krishnarao Sable, popularly known as Shaheer Sable.
- The song will be sung on Maharashtra Foundation Day on May 1 after the national anthem.

❖ **Kala Ghoda Arts Festival**

- One of the country's largest multicultural festivals, the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival begins on February 4 and will go on till February 12, 2023.

- The nine-day festival, organised by the Kala Ghoda Association, takes place in the Kala Ghoda area of South Mumbai.
- Established in 1999, the Kala Ghoda Art Festival is one of the biggest street art festivals in the country, attracting a large number of visitors not only from Mumbai but from across the country and the world.
- With the aim of promoting arts, crafts and cultural heritage, the funds raised from the festival every year are directed towards the restoration efforts undertaken by the Association.

❖ **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme**

- Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament on Wednesday (February 1), with a focus on the inclusive development of all sectors and sections of people.
- During her speech, Sitharaman announced a 'Mahila Samman Saving Certificate' with a fixed interest rate for two years.
- The deposit can be made in the name of a woman or a girl child. The finance minister announced that this new saving initiative can be availed for a deposit amount with a partial withdrawal option.
- The deposit facility for the women and girls will be for a period of two years with a rate of interest of 7.5 per cent.
- The Mahila Samman Bachat Patra is a one-time new small savings scheme.
- It will be made available for a two-year period up to March 2025.
- This will offer a deposit facility of up to Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenor of two years.
- The scheme can be availed at a fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with a partial withdrawal option.

❖ **MISTHI scheme**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's budget speech launched various schemes and policies aimed at ecological conservation.
- The newly introduced schemes are MISHTI, Amrit Dharohar and PM PRANAM.
- This is a new scheme which will facilitate mangrove plantation on salt lands along the sea coast of India.
- The scheme will operate through “convergence between MGNREGS, Campa Fund and other sources”.
- It aims at intensive afforestation of coastal mangrove forests.
- There are such forests on both the east and west coasts of India, with the Sundarbans in Bengal being one of the largest mangrove forests.
- PM PRANAM means (Prime Minister Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth).
- The program will endeavour to encourage States and Union Territories promoting balanced use of alternative fertilisers and chemical fertilisers.

❖ **PM-KUSUM Scheme Gets 3 Year Extension Till March 2026**

- The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026 as its implementation was significantly affected due to the pandemic.
- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) Launched in 2019.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) aimed at adding solar capacity of 30,800 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs 34,422 crore, including service charges to the implementing agencies.
- The scheme consists of three components -- Component A is for installation of 10,000 MW of solar capacity by installing small power plants of capacity up to 2 MW, component B aims

at installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps and component C is for solarisation of 15 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps.

❖ **Government of India launched the Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission**

- During the Union budget 2023, the Government of India launched the Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission. Under the Mission, the GoI is planning to eliminate the disease by 2047.
- Sickle Cell Anaemia affects the RBCs in the human body. When a person suffers from the disease his RBCs (usually rod-shaped) deform. Their shapes are affected.
- Sickle cells are those cells that form a C – shape, just like the shape of a sickle. They deform themselves.
- The primary function of RBC is to carry oxygen to different parts of the body.
- In a person with sickle cell anemia, the oxygen-carrying capacity of RBCs is affected. The disease creates adverse effects if left untreated.

❖ **PMAY-U scheme extended up to next year**

- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) scheme has been extended up to next year, to complete all the houses sanctioned during the last financial year.
- Around 123 lakh houses were sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) during the last financial year, of which 68 lakh houses were completed till last month.
- The central government has sanctioned Rs 2 lakh crore under the scheme, out of which Rs 1.36 lakh crore has been released so far.
- PMAY-U launched on 25 June 2015 by the Government of India and it is being implemented by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

❖ **Ministry of Defense becomes the largest buyer of MSME goods in 2022**

- The Ministry of Defense emerged as the largest buyer through MSME sellers.

- In 2022, the Ministry of Defense envisages procurement of goods and services worth Rs 16,747 crore from the MSME sector. This was 250% more than the purchases made in 2021.
- Among the states, Uttar Pradesh procured the maximum. Uttar Pradesh procured goods and services worth Rs 9,642 crore through GeM.
- GeM was Launched on 9 August 2016.
- Objective - To bring transparency and efficiency in the government procurement process
- Nodal Ministry - Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- GeM works on inclusion, transparency and efficiency. Artisans, weavers, SHGs, startups, women entrepreneurs and MSMEs are registered on GeM.

❖ **World Happiness Index 2023**

- Finland was named the world's happiest country for the fifth year in a row, according to the World Happiness Report.
- The World Happiness Index 2023 Report will mark its tenth anniversary with this year's Globe Happiness Reflect, which uses data from international surveys to show how people rank their lives in more than 150 countries.
- It rates 150 countries (146 in 2023) based on factors such as GDP, life expectancy, and other indicators of quality of life.
- The ranking, now in its eleventh year, assigns a score between 0 and 10 based on an average of data gathered over three years and a mathematical formula.
- According to a yearly UN survey released, Russia is not having a happy year as it drops in the global happiness rankings again this year.
- India ranks 136th in this 'Global Happiness Ranking 2023'. India was at number 139 in the 'Global Happiness Ranking' in 2021 of the 9th World Happiness Report. India was ranked 144 in 2020.
- The World Happiness Report is published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to the United Nations (UN).

❖ UK named country partner for BioAsia 2023

- For the 20th edition of the largest event in the biotechnological industry of Asia, global business firm BioAsia picked the United Kingdom (UK) as its country partner.
- With the theme of - 'Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanized healthcare', BioAsia 2023 is all set to be held from February 24 to 26 in Hyderabad.
- Over the course of three days, prominent industry leaders, distinguished scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs will come together to discuss 'humanized' healthcare.
- The plenary sessions will hold constructive discussions on how to integrate cross-sectional ecosystems, use disruptive technologies and make quality healthcare more accessible and affordable in the near future.
- With mutual interest, the UK and the Government of Telangana will come together to share knowledge and best practices in life-sciences.

❖ India to host 108 Buddhist pilgrims from South Korea

- India is set to host 108 Buddhist pilgrims from South Korea celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- The tourists will visit Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in India and subsequently move to Nepal.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting secretary Apurva Chandra on Monday announced that 108 Buddhist pilgrims from South Korea will walk over 1,100 km over a period of 43 days as part of a walking pilgrimage organised by the Sangwol Society of South Korea.
- The circuit aims to help tourists experience first-hand teachings of Lord Buddha and trace his footsteps during his lifetime.
- The sites to be covered during the pilgrimage span the life of Buddha from his birth to his Parinirvana.
- The slogan of the pilgrimage is 'Oh, We! Oh, Love! Oh, Life!', the pilgrimage.

❖ **India invited as theme country of 'Madrid International Book Fair 2025'**

- India has been invited as the theme country for the 'Madrid International Book Fair' to be held in 2025.
- Spain has been invited as the theme country for the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair, which began on Monday.
- Ambassador of Spain to India Jose Maria Ridaó said it is usually for publishers only. But, we can expand the horizon, to include cinema and music as well.
- The envoy also said editions of the prestigious Jaipur Literary Festival will be held in Madrid and another Spanish town later this year.
- Jaipur Literary Festival has had its editions in the UK and the US, but this will be the first time it will be celebrated in a non-English speaking country.

❖ **Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM**

- Central African country of Equatorial Guinea has appointed Manuela Roca Botey as the Prime Minister.
- She became the first woman in the country to hold the position.
- Ms Botey was previously the education minister and joined the government in 2020.
- She replaces former premier Francisco Pascual Obama Asue, who has been in the position since 2016.
- Joining the government as the minister for national education in 2020, she is also the vice dean of the National University of Equatorial Guinea's Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Equatorial Guinea has been ruled since 1979 by Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

❖ **India welcomes Congo into International Solar Alliance**

- India has welcomed Congo into the International Solar Alliance.

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement was signed by Raymond Serge Bell, Ambassador of the Republic of Congo in the presence of Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy).
- International Solar Alliance is a treaty-based intergovernmental organization whose primary function is to promote solar development by reducing the cost of financing and technology.
- It is the nodal agency to implement 'One Sun, One World, One Grid'.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30 November 2015 at the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) to the UNFCCC in France (Paris) along with 121 solar resource rich nations.
- Member-113 countries have signed this Framework Agreement.
- Its Headquarters is in Gurugram, India.

❖ Sri Lanka celebrated its 75th Independence Day

- On 4 February, Sri Lanka celebrated its 75th year of independence from British rule, in Colombo.
- A special cultural arts festival Lankaralanka was held on Friday at Independence square in Colombo.
- A two-minute silence was observed to commemorate all Sri Lankans who sacrificed their lives for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka.
- India's Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan participated in the Independence Day celebrations.
- Known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka was a major economic center for the British Empire, which granted it semi-independent 'dominionship' status in 1948.
- Sri Lanka became a full-fledged republic on May 22, 1972, and is formally known as the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- The first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was Don Stephen Senanayake, who is regarded as the Father of the Nation.

❖ UNESCO to declare Kolkata's Visva Bharat world's first living heritage university

- Visva-Bharati University, founded by Rabindranath Tagore in 1921, is set to become the world's first "living Heritage University".
- The university is expected to receive the heritage tag from UNESCO in April or May 2023.
- For the first time in the world, a living university which is functioning is going to get the heritage tag from UNESCO.
- It is located in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India.
- When founded in 1921, it was named after Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore until Visva-Bharati Society was registered as an organization in May 1922.
- UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that promotes cooperation among nations through education, science, culture, and communication.

❖ Fossil of giant sea scorpion species discovered in New Mexico

- A fossil of a giant ancient sea scorpion species that lived between 307 and 303 million years ago has been discovered in New Mexico.
- *Hibbertopterus lamsdelli* was over a metre long and belonged to an extinct group of aquatic arthropods that fed on small crustaceans, invertebrate larvae and gastropod eggs.
- According to researchers from the New Mexico Museum of Natural History this type of giant scorpion fossil is extremely rare.
- The fossil is over 307 million years ago - and its Latin name is *Hibbertopterus lamsdelli*.
- The team say it's from a family of aquatic arthropod invertebrates.
- The fossil was found in a quarry bed - soil and rock at the bottom of a quarry.
- This site is called Kinney Quarry, the bottom is known as the "fish bed" because of all the fossils of fish found there.

❖ **Indian-American student named 'World's brightest'**

- Natasha Perianayagam, an Indian-American girl, has been named in the world's brightest students list by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.
- Natasha Perianayagam has been named in the world's brightest students list for the second consecutive year.
- Natasha Perianayagam is 13 years old and is studying at Florence M Gaudineer Middle School, in New Jersey, the United States.
- The list was curated on the basis of the results of the above-grade-level tests of over 15,000 students across 76 countries.
- Natasha Perianayagam has also taken the Johns Hopkins Center For Talented Youth (CTY) test in Spring 2021, when she was a Grade 5 student.
- The Center for Talented Youth has used above-grade-level testing to identify advanced students from around the world. The test was also done to provide a clear picture of their academic abilities.

❖ **Yaya Tso to become Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site**

- Yaya Tso, known as birds' paradise for its beautiful lake located at an altitude of 4,820 metres, has been proposed as Ladakh's first biodiversity heritage site (BHS).
- The Biodiversity Management Committee, Chumathang village panchayat along with the SECURE Himalaya project have resolved to do so under the Biological Diversity Act.
- The proposed site will cover an area of 60 sq km.
- Yaya Tso is a nesting habitat for a large number of birds and animals, such as the bar-headed goose, black-necked crane and brahminy duck.
- It also has the distinction of being one of the highest breeding sites of the black-necked crane in India.

❖ Highest number of colleges in India: U.P.

- The Union Ministry of Education has released the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2020-2021.
- According to the report Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of colleges in the country, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- There are 8,114 colleges in Uttar Pradesh and 32 colleges per one lakh population.
- The top 10 states in terms of number of colleges in India -Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Kerala, each having at least 29 or more colleges per lakh population.
- The Ministry of Education has been conducting this survey since 2011, it includes higher educational institutions located in India.
- The survey collects information on various parameters such as student enrolment, teacher data, infrastructural, financial etc.
- In AISHE 2020-21, for the first time data collection has been done using a completely online data collection platform developed by the Department of Higher Education through National Informatics Center (NIC).

❖ Zagreb Open Championships.

- Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat clinched a bronze medal in the men's 57kg category at the Zagreb Open Championships. Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat clinched a bronze medal in the men's 57kg category at the Zagreb Open Championships.
- The 17-year-old Aman defeated Zane Raye Rhodes Richards of USA 10-4 on points to finish on the podium in the ranking tournament.
- Aliabbas Rzazade of Azerbaijan bagged the gold, beating Yuto Nishiuchi of Japan 2-0 in the final.
- The other bronze was won by Beka Bujiashvili of Georgia, who beat Islam Bazarganov of Azerbaijan.

➤ Aman had earlier defeated Roberti Dingashvili of Georgia in the quarterfinals, before losing to Nishiuchi in the semifinals.

❖ **National Beach Soccer Championship**

➤ Kerala has won the title of National Beach Soccer Championship by defeating Punjab 13-4 in the final held at Dumas Beach, Surat.

➤ In the game played for the third place, Delhi defeated Uttarakhand 3-1.

➤ Kerala's goalkeeper Santhosh Kasmeeer was awarded the best goalkeeper of the tournament.

➤ Rajasthan's Amit Godara became the highest goalscorer with 27 goals.

➤ The best player of the tournament was awarded to Kerala's Siju S.

❖ **National Car Racing Championship 2022**

➤ Young racing talent Sai Sanjay has won the MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022.

➤ Sai Sanjay, the 20-year-old from Salem, won his maiden National title in his debut season in the premier open-wheel Formula category.

➤ He garnered 201 points from the 12-race, four-round Nationals and won with a race to spare beating second-placed Ryan Mohamed by (165) 36 points.

➤ Sai is currently a part of NK Racing Academy and is being mentored by India's first Formula 1 driver, Narain Karthikeyan.

➤ In the other championship classes, Viswas Vijayraj won the LGB F1300 National title while veteran Arjun Balu bagged the ITC crown, his 11th National title.

❖ **Murali Vijay announces retirement from all forms of international cricket**

➤ Former India opener Murali Vijay announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.

➤ Vijay made his Indian squad Test debut in November 2008 after a successful run in the Ranji trophy, South Zone, India Red and India A tournaments.

- Within the span of 61 Test matches he amassed 3982 runs while playing for India with 12 centuries.
- He last played for India in December 2018 during the Border-Gavaskar Test series against Australia.
- Murali appeared in 17 ODIs and nine T20Is for India during his international career that began back in 2008.
- He scored 339 runs in ODIs with a solitary half-century and 169 runs in T20Is.
- He also played 135 first-class and 94 List A cricket matches for Tamil Nadu, last appearing in late 2019. Murali also appeared in 106 IPL matches, scoring 2619 runs with two tons and 13 fifties, last appearing in September 2020.

❖ **Usman Khawaja bags inaugural Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award**

- Usman Khawaja has won the inaugural Shane Warne Men's Test Player of the Year award following a superb 12 months in Australian test Cricket.
- Khawaja has been Australia's leading run-scorer in the five-day format, accumulating 1020 runs at 78.46 during the voting period.
- Last week, Khawaja was named in the ICC Test Team of the Year alongside Australian teammates Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon and Marnus Labuschagne.
- This award named in honour of the legendary leg-spinner Shane Warne, who passed away last March.

❖ **Anurag Thakur launch mascot, theme song and jersey of third Khelo India Winter Games**

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur and the LG of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha on Saturday launched the third Khelo India Winter Games mascot, theme song and jersey.
- The Winter Games are scheduled to be held from the 10th to the 14th of this month.

- Approximately 1500 athletes across the country will participate in the games that will take place in Gulmarg and will be played across nine sports events.
- It is being organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council as well as the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The first edition of the Khelo India Winter Games took place in 2020 and hosts Jammu and Kashmir have topped both the editions of the Games so far.

❖ **Tejaswin Shankar wins New Balance Indoor Grand Prix**

- High jumper Tejaswin Shankar clinched the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix title, the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meeting, in Boston.
- Tejaswin Shankar won the World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold competition with a jump of 2.26 metres. He defeated the 38-year-old Donald Thomas of Bahamas, a world champion in 2007, who settled for second place with his best attempt of 2.23m.
- Tejaswin Shankar set the country's indoor high jump record in 2018 at 2.28 metres.
- Tejaswin Shankar also holds the high jump national record for men in India with a height of 2.29 metres.
- At Birmingham 2022, Tejaswin Shankar, 24, won bronze in the men's high jump with a leap of 2.22 metres, earning India its first medal at the Commonwealth Games.

❖ **Saudi Arabia to host football's 2027 Asian Cup**

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has announced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) won the hosting of the 2027 Asian Nations Cup, for the first time in its history, since its inception in 1956.
- This came during the work of the 33rd Congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), February 1, in the Bahraini capital, Manama.
- Saudi Arabia was the only bid presented at the Congress in Manama after India's withdrawal in December 2022.

➤ It is note that Qatar will host the next edition of the Asian Football Cup, from June 26 to July 16, 2023.

❖ **Australia T20I Captain Aaron Finch Announces Retirement from International Cricket**

- Australian men's T20 captain Aaron Finch announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He has already retired from one-day international cricket in September.
- The 36-year-old captained Australia to its maiden T20 World Cup victory in Dubai in 2021.
- Finch led Australia in a world record 76 men's T20Is, as well as in 55 ODIs.
- The long-term white-ball skipper represented Australia in 254 international matches across all formats, playing five Tests, 146 ODIs and 103 T20Is.
- Since making his international debut in a T20I against England in January 2011, Finch amassed 8,804 runs which include 17 ODI centuries and two T20I tons.
- In 2020, he was nominated for the ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Decade award.
- Fast bowler Pat Cummins became captain of Australia's ODI team when Finch retired from the one-day format last October to focus on T20 cricket.

❖ **Former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passes away**

- Senior advocate and former Law Minister Shanti Bhushan passed away following a brief illness. He was 97.
- Bhushan served as India's law minister from 1977 to 1979 in the Morarji Desai cabinet. He was best known for successfully arguing for setting aside the election of Indira Gandhi in 1975.
- Bhushan represented politician Raj Narain in the historic case against Indira Gandhi.
- In his political career, he was a member of the Congress (O) and later of the Janata Party.
- He served as a Rajya Sabha member too. The lawyer-turned-politician was also a founding member of the BJP in 1980 and remained associated with the party for six years.

➤ The eminent jurist was also a founding members of the Aam Aadmi Party which he later quit.

❖ **Veteran film director Kashinathuni Vishwanath passes away**

➤ Veteran film director and Dadasaheb Phalke award winner Kasinathuni Vishwanath passed away following brief illness at a private hospital in Hyderabad.

➤ He was a stalwart of the cinema world, distinguishing himself as a creative and multifaceted director.

➤ Viswanath, popularly known as 'Kalatapasvi', was born in February 1930 in Andhra Pradesh.

➤ He became the 48th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema.

➤ He was conferred with the award for the year 2016.

➤ His other honours include Padma Shri in 1992, five National Awards, 20 Nandi Awards (given by the Andhra Pradesh government) and 10 Filmfare trophies including the Lifetime Achievement award.

❖ **Singer Vani Jairam passes away**

➤ Singer Vani Jairam, who was recently honoured with the Padma Bhushan, passed away at her residence in Chennai on Saturday. She was 78.

➤ Vani started her career in the early 1970s and continued singing for over five decades.

➤ She has sung over 10,000 songs in 19 languages including Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, Telugu and Kannada.

➤ She was honoured with the National Film Award for Best Female Playback Singer in 1975, 1980 and 1991.

➤ She has worked with legendary composers including MS Viswanathan Ilaiyaraaja, RD Burman, KV Mahadevan, OP Nayyar and Madan Mohan, among others.